

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02575 221308Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 EUR-12 /091 W

-----230226Z 066240 /22

R 221242Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2775

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 132

AMEMBASSY ROME

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SY, ET, SU

SUBJECT: SARG SUPPORTS ERITREAN SUMMIT IN ERITREA

1. ITALIAN EMBOFF TOLD US APRIL 21 THAT ITALIANS HAD LEARNED FROM SUDANESE AMB. PREVIOUS DAY OF MEETING PLANNED APRIL 20 IN ERITREA OF ERITREAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION LEADERS AHMAD NASSER, OSMAN SABBE AND RAMADAN ABD-AL-NUR. TO CHECK THIS INFORMATION, ITALIAN EMBOFF MET SAME AFTERNOON WITH ELF DAMASCUS OFFICE DIRECTOR MUHAMMAD BURHAN. BURHAN VERIFIED THAT MEETING SCHEDULED THAT DAY, BUT CLAIMED ONLY RAMADAN AND NASSER WERE MEETING IN EFFORT TO LAY ROUND-WORK FOR REUNIFICATION OF RAMADAN FACTION WITH SABBE GROUP. IF MEETING WENT WELL, NASSER PLANNED TO CONTACT SABBE AND BRING HIM INTO GATHERING.

2. EMBOFF REPORTED THAT RAMADAN HAD VISITED DAMASCUS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02575 221308Z

WITHIN PAST MONTH. RAMADAN HELD BRIEF MEETING WITH PRES. ASAD AND LENGTHY TALKS WITH BAATH PARTY OFFICIALS. EMBOFF SAID SYRIA WAS COORDINATING CLOSELY WITH SUDAN TO FORGE GREATER UNITY AMONG ERITREAN GROUPS, AND HAD HELPED TO ARRANGE SUMMIT. EMBOFF ADDED THAT SYRIAN COMMUNICATIONS WITH ERITREANS HAD IMPROVED SINCE SUDAN DECIDED TO INCREASE ITS SUPPORT FOR THESE LIBERATION

GROUPS; SYRIAN MEDIA NOW REGULARLY DISSEMINATED NEWS ABOUT ERITREAN DEVELOPMENTS.

3. BIOGRAPHIC INFO: EMBOFF SAID RAMADAN ABD AL-NUR WAS HEAD OF ERITREAN POPULAR FRONT, AND HIS DEPUTY WAS ESAYAS AFWORKY, BUT MANY CONSIDERED LATTER MORE POWERFUL FIGURE IN THIS FACTION. POPULAR FRONT HAD BROKEN FROM SABBE'S POPULAR FORCES SOME TIME AGO, AND SABBE CLAIMED SINCE THAT RMADAN AND AFWORKY WERE MARXISTS. DIRG, ACCORDING TO ITALIAN, WAS IN CONTACT WITH RAMADAN/AFWORKY FACTION. MUHAMMAD BURHAN IS DIRECTOR OF AHMAD NASSER'S ELF DAMASCUS OFFICE, AND HIS DEPUTY IS TEKLE EZAZ.

4. COMMENT: SOURCE MEETS OFTEN WITH ERITREAN FIGURES IN DAMASCUS, AND HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN WILLING TO SUPPLY US WITH INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT FACTIONS. IN PAST FEW MONTHS WE TOO HAVE NOTED MORE REGULAR REPORTING ON ERITREA IN SYRIAN MEDIA AND SEEMINGLY MORE FREQUENT VISITS BY VARIOUS FACTIONAL LEADERS. SYRIA HAS TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED ERITREANS WITH WEAPONS, AND IT IS NOW INTERESTING TO SEE THAT REGIME HAS FOUND COMMON INTEREST WITH GOS TO PROMOTE ERITREAN POLITICAL HARMONY WITHIN CONTEXT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING HORN OF AFRICA.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE REGARDING USEFULNESS OF THIS INFORMATION AND WHETHER IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR US TO CONTINUE CONTACT WITH SOURCE FOR THIS PURPOSE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02575 221308Z

PELLETREAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC02575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770141-0726
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770430/aaaaazok.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 39801fa1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2728693
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SARG SUPPORTS ERITREAN SUMMIT IN ERITREA
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SY, ET, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/39801fa1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009